

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SANTO 02330 031312Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSC-05 SS-15 HA-05 EB-08 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 SP-02 /082 W  
-----007137 031452Z /47

R 022120Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4387

UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 2330

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PDIP, DR, US  
SUBJECT: ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR YOST

REF: SD 2120

FOLLOWING IS ARRIVAL STATEMENT DELIVERED IN SPANISH BY AMBASSADOR  
YOST ON ARRIVAL IN SANTO DOMINGO APRIL 28:

1. QUOTE: IT WAS A GREAT HONOR FOR ME TO BE CHOSEN BY PRESIDENT  
CARTER AS UNITED STATES AMBASSADOR TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC,  
AND I AM VERY PLEASED TO TAKE UP MY NEW DUTIES HERE.
2. AS A PERSONAL NOTE, MY WIFE AND I HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO  
VISIT THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BRIEFLY LAST YEAR. WE HAD THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO APPRECIATE WHAT YOUR DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM CALLS  
THE BEST-KEPT SECRET OF THE CARIBBEAN: A COUNTRY OF GREAT  
AND VARIED BEAUTY AND ITS WARM, OUT-GOING AND FRIENDLY PEOPLE.
3. MY GOVERNMENT HAS MAINTAINED THE MOST CORDIAL AND  
CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC. WE HAVE BEEN IMPRESSED WITH THE RECORD OF ECONOMIC  
GROWTH AND SOCIAL AND POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT THAT HAS  
BEEN ACHIEVED OVER THE PAST DECADE.
4. IN PREPARING MYSELF FOR THIS ASSIGNMENT, I HAVE READ  
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MUCH OF CONTEMPORARY EVENTS IN DOMINICAN LIFE. I HAVE  
BEEN PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE UNFOLDING ELECTORAL  
PROCESS BY WHICH THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE WILL FREELY CHOOSE, IN  
THE MAY 16 ELECTION, THOSE WHO WILL CONSTITUTIONALLY GOVERN  
HERE FOR THE NEXT FOUR YEARS. THE SPIRIT EXPRESSED BY THE  
CONTENDING PARTIES IN MANIFESTING THEIR RESPECT FOR DEMOCRATIC  
PRINCIPLES AND VALUES HAS BEEN MOST IMPRESSIVE.

5. THE UNINHIBITED PARTICIPATION OF A NATION'S CITIZENRY IN THE SELECTION OF ITS LEADERSHIP IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS THAT PRESIDENT CARTER IS SEEKING TO PROMOTE. HIS EFFORTS REFLECT OUR FIRM BELIEF THAT WE ARE ABLE TO COOPERATE MOST CLOSELY WITH THOSE COUNTRIES, SUCH AS THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, WHICH SHARE DEMOCRATIC VALUES. MY GOVERNMENT REGARDS GENUINELY FREE AND OPEN ELECTIONS IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC AS AN IMPORTANT STEP FOR DEMOCRACY IN THIS HEMISPHERE.

6. I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT WHOEVER WINS THE ELECTION, MY GOVERNMENT STANDS READY TO MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN THE TRADITIONALLY CLOSE RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS BEEN OF SUCH MUTUAL BENEFIT TO OUR COUNTRIES.

7. I INTEND TO DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO FURTHER THAT RELATIONSHIP DURING MY TOUR HERE. MY WIFE AND I LOOK FORWARD TO OUR ASSOCIATION WITH YOU. UNQUOTE.

8. IN BRIEF IMPROMPTU PRESS CONFERENCE FOLLOWING STATEMENT, REPORTERS RAISED QUESTION OF AMBASSADOR'S ATTITUDE ON SUGAR QUESTION (REPLY REFERRED TO CURRENT CECON MEETING FOCUSING ON THIS SUBJECT); ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING AMBASSADOR HURWITCH (NO COMMENT; PRESIDENT CARTER'S INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA (A PROFOUND AND SINCERE ONE); AND COINCIDENCE OF AMBASSADOR'S ARRIVAL ON ANNIVERSARY OF MARINE LANDING IN 1965 (PURE COINCI-  
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DENCE BUT GOOD ILLUSTRATION OF HOW THINGS HAVE CHANGED). STORY WAS PLAYED STRAIGHT IN THE MEDIA WITH COMMENTS ON ELECTION ATTITUDES WELL RECEIVED IN THE PRESS BUT PLAYED DOWN ON GOVERNMENT-ORIENTED TV.  
YOST

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADORS, SPEECHES  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** ARRIVAL STATEMENT OF AMBASSADOR YOST  
**TAGS:** PDIP, DR, US, (YOST, ROBERT L)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014